

Testimony

STAMFORD REGISTRARS SUPPORT FOR BILL 6291

An Act Concerning Absentee Voting by Certain Town Officials Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 11, 2013

Stamford is a city of 120,000 residents, is seven miles long and 5 miles wide and is one of the largest cities in the state. We have a voting population of approximately 60,000 with 20 Local Voting Districts and 22 State Voting Districts. Stamford enjoys having the largest percentage of voter turn out which keeps our office extraordinarily busy on Election day.

Voting for the registrars and staff can entail being out of the office for up to an hour getting to and retuning from their polling location.

During elections and primaries Stamford has two Registrars, two Deputy's and approximately 14 Assistant Registrars working in the office at the Government Center. Because of the high volume of calls and problems that occur throughout the day it almost impossible to leave the office and vote.

Upon returning to the ROV office in Government Center it can take an additional 10 to 15 minutes locating a parking space due to the high volume of business conducted in the building.

The absence of the Registrars and or Deputies for this length of time causes consternation for the candidates as well as the Registrars.

With the advent of same day voter registration for the 2014 Gubernatorial and State Elections it will be almost impossible for the Registrars and their office staff to leave their office for extended periods of time and successfully fulfill their required duties.

Therefore we the Registrars from Stamford support bill number 6291 giving the Town Clerks, Registrars and their staff the ability to vote by absentee ballot for all hours of voting in a primary, election or referendum.

Sincerely,

Terry Bivona
Stamford Registrar of Voters Office

Written